

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's further Office Action of October 31, 2008 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment of the claims and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

independent claim 1 is amended to specify that the series of entities includes a plurality of intermediate entities and each entity shares a validation parameter with only its immediately neighbouring entity or entities in the series. Support for this amendment can be found at paragraphs [4402]-[4425]; and

dependent claims 2 and 4-25 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the Amendment does not add any new matter to the present application.

Regarding 35 USC 102(e) and 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2 and 4-25 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed or suggested by newly cited Raivisto (US 6,081,601) either taken alone or in view of previously cited Schneier and Wiegley, for at least the following reasons.

Amended independent claim 1 clarifies that each entity in the series only shares validation parameters with its immediate neighbours in the series. In this way, a secured chain of validation is provided.

On the other hand, Raivisto specifically discloses that when more than one mediator MD is provided, the transmitting mobile station MS provides an indication of which MD is to be used. Thus, it is possible that more than one MD knows the secret keys of a particular MS. Furthermore, Raivisto does not disclose or suggest using a chain of MDs between the mobile stations, rather just selecting one of the MDs at a time (see col. 4, line 54-col. 5, line 41 and col. 6, lines 31-44).

Further still, neither Schneier nor Wiegley provide any disclosure which makes up for this deficiency in Raivisto. Thus, the cited references do not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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